

Central Bedfordshire Council

CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL

Thursday 26 July 2018

Impact of new legislation on young people leaving care

Report of: Cllr Steve Dixon, Executive Member for Social Care and Housing
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Purpose of this report

This report highlights the impact of the new legislation introduced by Children and Social Work Act 2017. In accordance with the Act the local authority has a duty to assist Care Leavers in, or preparing for, adulthood and independent living up to the age of 25.

The report also indicates the support provided to the young people leaving care and makes recommendations regarding exemption from council tax for Care Leavers in Central Bedfordshire

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive or Committee are asked to:

1. Note the impact of the new legislation
2. Approve the proposed solution and financial implication in addressing the impact of new legislation by increasing the Leaving Care establishment from 7 Personal Advisers to 9 with a total cost of £57k/year
3. Approve the implementation of Council Tax exemption (when appropriate) for Central Bedfordshire Council's Care Leavers up to the age of 25 living within Central Bedfordshire Council's borders.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

The report is planned to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Issues

Appendix A is the report highlighting the impact of Children and Social Work Act 2017 on Central Bedfordshire Council's offer to young people leaving care

Options for consideration

As detailed in the attached report

Council Priorities

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire
- Great resident services
- Improving education and skills
- Protecting the vulnerable; improving wellbeing
- Creating stronger communities
- A more efficient and responsive Council.

Risk Management:

Child Protection Risks: the recommendations in the attached report are aimed at maintaining the level of service and safeguarding for our Care leavers

Financial Risk: The attached report highlights the financial implications of the proposals

Legal Implications

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 is intended to improve the support for looked after children and Care Leavers, to promote the welfare and safeguarding of children, and to make provisions about the social work regulations.

The Council can exercise discretion to reduce council tax liability for individuals or prescribed groups in accordance with section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

Financial and Risk Implications

This report provides details of the financial implications

Equalities Implications

Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Conclusion and next Steps

Note the impact of the new legislation

Approve the proposed solution and financial implication in addressing the impact of new legislation by increasing the Leaving Care establishment from 7 Personal Advisers to 9 with a total cost of £57k/year

Approve the implementation of Council Tax exemption (when appropriate) for Central Bedfordshire Council's Care Leavers up to the age of 25 living within Central Bedfordshire Council's borders.

Appendices

Appendix A: IMPACT OF CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT 2017
ON CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL'S OFFER
TO YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING CARE

Background Papers

None

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